(b) The policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% and the Government retains the management control of the company.

(c) In all cases of disinvestment, Inter-ministerial consultation are held before taking a decision.

Expansion of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

*150. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to expand the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme by easing its eligibility norms;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to reduce the age for Below Poverty Level (BPL) persons receiving pension from 65 years to 60 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider extending pension even to widows, destitutes and the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has already introduced in February 2009, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) as components of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). IGNWPS is applicable to BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and IGNDPS is applicable to BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years.

Old Age Pension was earlier granted to destitutes of 65 years or higher under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). In November 2007 Government of India modified the eligibility criteria under NOAPS by relaxing the eligibility criteria from 'one who is 65 years or higher and destitute' to 'one who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a family living below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India'. With the change in eligibility criteria, NOAPS was renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided in all the pension schemes.

Residential schools for tribal students

*151. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: